(b) The recent tender for planning supply and commissioning of 2G/3G combo network for 45.5 Million lines is yet under financial evaluation.

(c) Price of equipment is dependent on several factors such as the technology sought, scope of work, specifications and other terms and conditions like rollout schedule, payment terms etc. and therefore straight comparisons cannot be made.

Delay in tender process

3065. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state:

(a) whether BSNL had decided to purchase huge quantity of mobile handsets to face the competition from the Private Service Providers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is enormous delay in the tendering process; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) BSNL has floated tender for procurement of 3 lakh GSM based fixed wireless phones.

(c) and (d) NIT for this tender was issued on 26-12-2006. Being a two-stage bid, Techno Commercial bid was opened on 08-03-2007. The bid is presently under evaluation and techno commercial screening is in the final stage. Financial bid of only short listed bidders will be opened at a short notice.

Ombudsman for postal sector

3066. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an Ombudsman for postal sector to address the grievances of consumers;